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GEOGRAPHICAL OUTLINES

OF

NEW ZEALAND,

WITH TWO MAPS, AND EXAMINATION QUESTIONS.

BY

THOMAS A. BOWDEN, B.A. OXON.

(Late Government Inspector of Schools).



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CONTENTS.



| | PAGE |
|--|------|
| SECTION 1.—DISCOVERY AND EARLY HISTORY, . . . | 1 |
| „ 2.—SIZE AND POSITION OF THE ISLANDS, . . . | 3 |
| „ 3.—THE COAST AND COAST FEATURES, . . . | 6 |
| „ 4.—THE MOUNTAINS AND PLAINS, NORTH ISLAND, . | 8 |
| „ 5.— Do. Do. SOUTH ISLAND, . | 11 |
| „ 6.—THE RIVERS, NORTH ISLAND, . . . | 13 |
| „ 7.— Do. SOUTH ISLAND, . . . | 15 |
| „ 8.—THE LAKES, . . . | 17 |
| „ 9.—GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES GENERALLY, . . | 20 |
| „ 10.—POLITICAL HISTORY, . . . | 23 |
| „ 11.—POLITICAL DIVISIONS AND TOWNS, . . . | 27 |
| „ 12.—AUSTRALASIA, . . . | 29 |



MAPS.

| | PAGE |
|--|------|
| THE NORTH ISLAND OF NEW ZEALAND, | 8 |
| THE SOUTH ISLAND OF NEW ZEALAND, | 11 |

GEOGRAPHICAL OUTLINES

OF

NEW ZEALAND.

GENERAL GEOGRAPHY OF THE COLONY.

SECTION I.

DISCOVERY AND EARLY HISTORY.

THE country of NEW ZEALAND derived its name from the southernmost province of Holland in Europe, having been discovered in the year 1642 by the celebrated Dutch Navigator ABEL TASMAN, who also discovered Tasmania or Van Diemen Land, as well as other islands in Australasia and Polynesia.

The New Zealand group comprises two large islands known as the *North* and *South Islands*, with one of smaller size called *Stewart Island*, and numerous islets. They are situated in the South Pacific Ocean, nearly at the antipodes to Great Britain, so that a line drawn from Greenwich in England through the centre of the globe, and continued to the surface upon the opposite side, would reappear near *Antipodes Islets*, at a point only distant a few hundred miles in a south-easterly direction from *South Cape* in *Stewart Island*.

CAPTAIN COOK, the great British Explorer of the Pacific Ocean, and circumnavigator of the world, rediscovered these islands in 1769, and made a complete survey and Chart of their coasts. They shortly afterwards became a favourite resort for British, French, and American whalers, who established extensive and profitable fisheries upon the coast, and whose land stations were scattered along the southern shores, and on both sides of the straits which divide the islands.

Australian traders soon began to visit New Zealand, and the commerce which thus sprung up, together with the occasional appearance, at Sydney, on board a trading vessel, of a Chief of the Maori race which inhabited the islands, attracted public attention to the country, and led, in the year 1814, to the establishment of an English Church Mission in the northern part of the North Island, under the direction of the Rev. Samuel Marsden, the Colonial Chaplain of New South Wales. Similar missions also in the northern parts of the country were established by the Roman Catholic and Wesleyan Churches.

In the year 1840, New Zealand became a *British Colony*, the sovereignty of the British Crown being formally proclaimed by CAPTAIN HOBSON, afterwards the first Governor, and the native rights ceded to the Sovereign of Great Britain by the "*Treaty of Waitangi*," concluded between Captain Hobson, as British Consul, and the Maori chiefs at the native settlement of Waitangi, in the Bay of Islands, on the north-eastern shore of New Zealand.

In addition to the group of islands which constitute New Zealand, some other small groups have been annexed to the Colony by Acts of the British Parliament (1842-1863), namely, the Chatham and Auckland Isles, Campbell Island, and the Bounty and Antipodes Islets.

The Chatham Islands were discovered in the year 1791 by Lieutenant Broughton, Commander of H.M. Brig *Chatham*, and are situated about 360 miles to the east of New Zealand. The Auckland Isles are a small group,

situated about 180 miles to the south of New Zealand, and were discovered in the year 1806 by Captain Bristow, in command of the whaler *Ocean*.

QUESTIONS FOR EXAMINATION.

1. Who discovered New Zealand? 2. In what year? 3. Why was it so named? 4. What other discoveries did Tasman make? 5. What does New Zealand consist of? 6. Where is it situated? 7. Explain its position with respect to Greenwich? 8. What are the Antipodes Islands? 9. Who first surveyed New Zealand? 10. In what year? 11. What people then began to frequent its shores? 12. What commerce soon sprang up? 13. What drew attention to New Zealand in Sydney? 14. When was the first Church Mission established? 15. When did New Zealand become a British Colony? 16. Who was first Governor? 17. What treaty was concluded with the natives? 18. Where is Waitangi? 19. What other groups of islands belong to New Zealand? 20. When were they united to it? 21. When were the Chatham Islands discovered? 22. Where are they? 23. When were the Auckland Isles discovered? 24. Where are they?

SECTION II.

THE ISLANDS (THEIR SIZE AND POSITION).

The main islands of New Zealand are known by the names of "*The North Island*," "*The South Island*," and "*Stewart Island*." The native name of the North Island signified "The Fish of Maui" (a native hero or deity); and that of the South Island "The Land of Greenstone;" greenstone or jade—the substance from which their weapons of offence, as well as their symbols of authority, were made—supplying the natives with "stone implements," and being to them as valuable as metal is to ourselves.*

These islands form one extended line for a distance of nearly 1200 miles, their general direction being towards the south-west, excepting that of a northern portion, which

* Note. The native names were, North Island, *Te Ika a Maui*; South Island, *Te Wahi Pounamu*; Stewart Island, *Rakiura*.

bends in a rectangular direction towards the north-west ; but a straight line from the North Cape to the South Cape would not exceed 900 miles in length. Their breadth is extremely variable, ranging from a few miles, as at Auckland, to about 250 from Cape Egmont to East Cape, the average of the whole being about 120. Their area is nearly 100,000 square miles, or rather less than that of Great Britain and Ireland. They are situated between the parallel circles of $34\frac{1}{2}$ and $47\frac{1}{2}$ degrees of south latitude ; and between the meridian lines of $166\frac{1}{2}$ and $178\frac{3}{4}$ degrees of east longitude. Their distance from Great Britain is about 12,000 miles ; from the Isthmus of Panama, in the centre of America, about 6000 ; from the Equator about 3000 ; from the South Pole about 3000 ; and from the nearest part of Australia about 1200.

The *North Island* is about 500 miles long, and its extreme breadth is about 250 miles. Its area is about 44,000 square miles, or rather less than that of England, which is 50,000. It is separated from the South Island by *Cook Strait*, a channel running almost north and south, and which, at its narrowest part, is only 13 miles across. This channel is named after the great navigator, who established a rendezvous upon its western shore during his visits to the islands.

The *South Island* is also about 500 miles in length, and its greatest breadth about 200. Its area is about 55,000 square miles, or rather less than that of England and Wales together. It is separated from Stewart Island (so named after the mariner who first discovered it to be an island) by the *Foveaux Strait*, which is 15 miles across at the nearest points, and was so named by the French navigator D'Urville, after Admiral Foveaux.

Stewart Island is about 40 miles long and 25 broad. Its area is less than 1000 square miles, and about equal to *the united areas* of all the minor islands around the coasts of England.

The *Chatham Islands* are situated on the 44th degree of south latitude, and on the 177th degree of west longitude—their latitude nearly corresponding with that of the central portion of the South Island of New Zealand. They comprise several low hilly islands, and their total area is about 500 square miles.

The *Auckland Isles* are situated between the degrees of 50 and 51 south latitude, and on the meridian line of 166° east longitude, which nearly corresponds with the longitude of the south-west point of New Zealand. Their area is about 300 square miles.

In addition to the main islands, there are also in New Zealand a considerable number of islets upon the coast of the main islands, of which the principal are—The Three Kings, Great and Little Barrier, Kawau, Rangitoto, Waiheke, Great Mercury, Whakaari or White Island, and Kapiti, on the coast of the North Island; and D'Urville Island, Arapawa, Secretary, Resolution, and Ruapuke, on the coast of the South Island. At the west entrance of Foveaux Strait is Solander Isle, and about 60 miles to the south of Stewart Island a group of small rocky islets called the Snares; whilst at a distance of some hundred miles to the south-east, in addition to the larger groups of the Chatham and Auckland Islands, are Bounty Island, the Antipodes Islands, and Campbell Island.

QUESTIONS FOR EXAMINATION.

1. What are the British names of the principal Islands? 2. What did the native name of the North Island signify? 3. What that of the South Island? 4. What is the length of the main group? 5. What its direction? 6. What is its breadth? 7. What is its area? 8. Between what parallel circles is it situated? 9. Between what meridians? 10. What is its direct distance from Great Britain? 11. What from the Isthmus of Panama? 12. What from the Equator? 13. What from the South Pole? 14. What from Australia? 15. What are the length and breadth of the North Island? 16. What is its area? 17. What separates it from the South Island? 18. What are the length and breadth of the South Island? 19. What is its area? 20. What separates it from Stewart Island? 21. What are the length and breadth of Stewart Island? 22. What is its area?

23. Where are the Chatham Islands situated? 24. Where are the Auckland Isles situated? 25. Name the principal islets on the coasts of the North Island. 26. Name those on the coasts of the South Island. 27. Name other islands which belong to New Zealand.

SECTION III.

THE COAST AND COAST FEATURES.

The coast-line of New Zealand is much broken and very irregular. It is large compared with the actual length and breadth of the country, and nearly equals in extent the coast-line of Great Britain; but New Zealand possesses fewer harbours than Great Britain, and these are very unequally distributed.

BAYS, &c. In the North Island the principal bays and gulfs are the *Hauraki Gulf* between the two northern peninsulas, the *Bay of Plenty* on the north-east, *Hawke Bay* on the south-east, and *Palliser Bay* on the south. The West Coast comprehends two extensive bights divided by Cape Egmont, forming the *North* and *South Taranaki Bights*.

In the South Island the principal bays are *Golden Bay* and *Tasman Bay* on the north, *Cloudy Bay* on the north-east, *Pegasus Bay* on the east, *Molyneux Bay* on the south-east, *Tevaewae Bay* on the south, and *Karamea Bay* on the north-west; whilst in the middle section of the island each coast is indented by an extensive bight—*Canterbury Bight* on the east, and *Westland Bight* on the west.

HARBOURS. The principal harbours in the North Island are the *Bay of Islands* on the north-east, *Waitemata* or *Auckland Harbour* in the *Hauraki Gulf*, *Napier Harbour* in *Hawke Bay*, *Wellington Harbour* or *Port*

Nicholson on the south, and *Hokianga*, *Kaipara*, *Manukau*, and *Kawhia* Harbours, together with the estuary of the *Waikato* river on the north-west.

The principal harbours in the South Island are *Nelson Haven* in Tasman Bay, *Queen Charlotte Sound*, with *Picton Harbour*, in Cook Strait, *Port Lyttelton* in Pegasus Bay, *Dunedin Harbour*, with *Port Chalmers* on the south-east, and *Bluff Harbour* and *Invercargill Harbour*, both in Foveaux Strait. The north-western coast is destitute of any good harbours, but on the south-west are *Chalky Bay*, *Dusky Bay*, *Milford Sound*, and others.

In Stewart Island are *Port Pegasus* and *Paterson Inlet*.

STRAITS. *Cook Strait*, between the North and South Islands; *Foveaux Strait*, between the South Island and Stewart Island; *Tamaki Strait*, between Waiheke Island and the mainland in the Hauraki Gulf; *Coromandel Channel*, between Great Barrier Island and the northern extremity of Coromandel peninsula; *French Pass*, between D'Urville Island and the north coast of the South Island; and *Tory Channel*, between the same coast and Arapawa Island.

CAPES. The principal capes in the North Island are *Cape Maria Van Diemen*, the most westerly point of the island, and *North Cape*, its most northerly point, both on the north; *Capes Brett* and *Colville*, *East Cape*, *Table Cape*, and *Kidnappers Cape* on the east; *Cape Palliser*, *Taourakira Head*, and *Cape Terawhiti* on the south; *Cape Egmont* and *Reef Point* on the west.

The principal capes in the South Island are *Cape Farewell*, *Francis Head*, and *Cape Jackson* on the north; *Cape Campbell*, *East Head*, *Cape Saunders*, and *Nugget Point* on the east; the *Bluff* and *Windsor Point* on the south; and *West Cape*, *Cascade Point*, *Cape Foulwind*, and *Rocks Point*, on the west, with *Cape Stephen* in D'Urville Island.

At the South of Stewart Island is *South Cape*.

QUESTIONS FOR EXAMINATION.

1. Describe the nature of the coast-line of New Zealand. 2. Name and describe the principal bays, &c., in the North Island. 3. Name and describe the principal bays, &c., in the South Island. 4. Name and describe the principal harbours in the North Island. 5. Name and describe the principal harbours in the South Island. 6. Name the principal harbours in Stewart Island. 7. Where is Cook Strait? 8. Where is Foveaux Strait? 9. Where is the Tamaki Strait? 10. Where is Coromandel Channel? 11. Where is the French Pass? 12. Where is Tory Channel? 13. Name and describe the principal capes in the North Island. 14. Name and describe the principal capes in the South Island. 15. Name the principal cape in Stewart Island.

SECTION IV.

MOUNTAINS AND PLAINS OF THE NORTH ISLAND.

The country of New Zealand is very mountainous, the main ranges lying generally in the direction of the greater axis of each island, namely, from north-east to south-west.

In the northern half of the North Island the mountains do not occupy so much of the land as in other parts, nor do they reach any great height, seldom exceeding an elevation of 1500 feet, with the exception of a few lofty peaks, which are generally isolated in position, and present the features of extinct volcanoes. The most remarkable of these peaks are *Mounts Edgecumbe* and *Hikurangi* in the east, and *Mount Karehoe* on the western coast.

The most extensive range in this part of the island is the *Coromandel range*, which forms the north-eastern peninsula of the island. This range averages 1500 feet in height, and contains rocks which are richly impregnated with gold.

The numerous islands in the seas adjacent to this part of the island indicate a submarine continuation of this range, the loftier peaks of which still emerge above the level of the ocean, though some of them may be regarded as the summits of isolated volcanic cones similar in charac-

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ter to those enumerated above, but whose bases are at the bottom of the ocean : of these, *Rangitoto*, near the entrance of the Waitemata Harbour in the Hauraki Gulf, shows traces of eruption at no very distant period ; and *Whakaari*, or *White Island*, in the Bay of Plenty, still emits columns of vapour, its summit reaching an elevation of nearly 1000 feet above the sea level.

Towards the middle part of the island, and a little to the south of the 39th parallel of latitude, are three remarkable and very lofty volcanic *peaks*, *Mount Egmont* or *Taranaki*, isolated on the west coast, and *Tongariro* and *Ruapehu*, both near the centre of the island. *Tongariro* is 6500 feet in height, and still manifests occasional symptoms of activity. *Ruapehu*, which is an extinct volcano, attains to 9195 feet, and *Taranaki*, also long extinct, is 8280 feet above the sea level. The two latter reach above the limit of perpetual snow, which may here be estimated at about 8000 feet above the sea.

To the eastward of these central peaks lies the *main range* in the North Island, which extends to its southern extremity, and again from thence, broken only by the Straits and by occasional passes, to the extreme south of New Zealand.

The principal portion of this range in the North Island is the *Ruahine chain*, which extends in an unbroken length for a distance of about 80 miles, having an average elevation of about 4000 feet. At its southern limit the range is cleft by the *Manawatu gorge*, through which the *Manawatu* river flows. To the south of this river the main range continues under the name of the *Tararua* mountains in the same direction for a distance of about 50 miles, after which it assumes a more easterly direction and the designation of the *Rimutaka* range, which it retains until it reaches Cook Strait at Taourakira Head, the western promontory of Palliser Bay. Spurs from the *Tararua* continue towards the western coast, which they reach at the cliff formed by the *Paikakariki Hills* at *Terawhiti*.

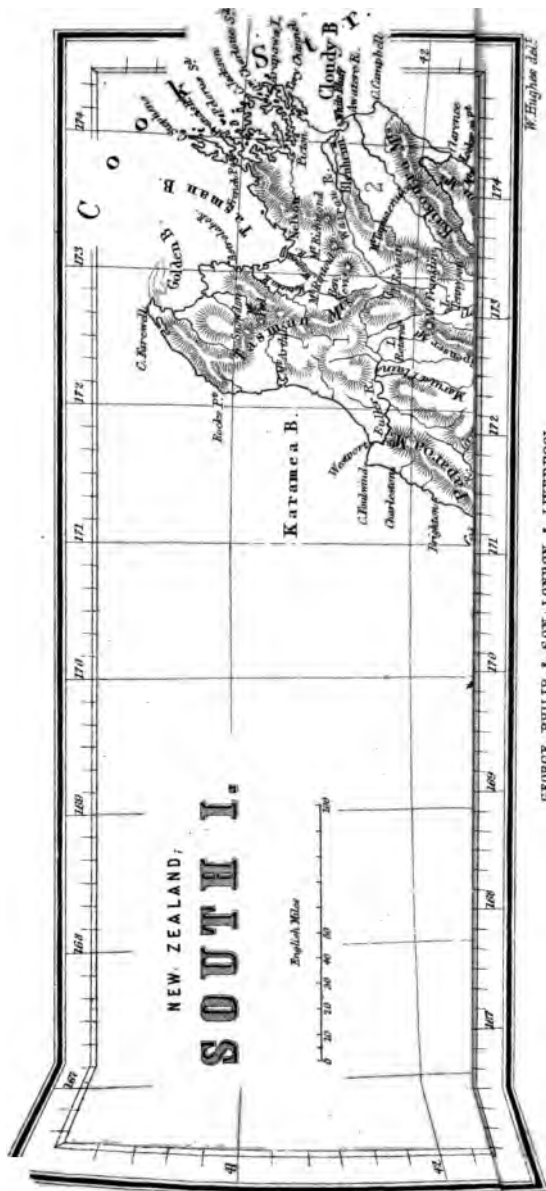
the south-west point of the island, and at intermediate headlands.

Parallel with the Ruahine range, but extending considerably further towards the north, is another range called the *Kaimanawha*; and along the south-east coast, at some distance inland, are a series of chains extending in an irregular line from Cape Kidnappers, the southern headland of Hawke Bay, to Cape Palliser, the south-eastern extremity of the island, and bearing the names of the *Puketoi*, *Maungaraki*, and *Haurangi* Mountains.

The principal *Plains* in the North Island are the *Kirikiri* plains, near the Bay of Islands; the *Thames Valley*; the lower, middle, and upper *Waikato plains* along the river of that name; the *Kaingaroa* and *Taupo* plains in the interior; the *Rua Taniwha* and *Wairarapa* plains in the east; and an extensive tract of undulating country lying west of the central range of mountains towards Mount Egmont, bordering the South Taranaki Bight, covered with forest, and intersected by the Whanganui and other rivers.

QUESTIONS FOR EXAMINATION.

1. What is the common direction of the mountain ranges? 2. Describe the surface of the northern half of the North Island. 3. Name the principal peaks in this part. 4. Name the principal range in this part. 5. Describe it. 6. What do the neighbouring islets show? 7. Name some islets which still bear traces of late volcanic eruption. 8. Name the principal peaks in the central part of the island. 9. State the height of these peaks. 10. Describe the main range of mountains. 11. What is the Ruahine chain? 12. Describe it. 13. How is it divided from the Tararua mountains? 14. Describe the Tararua mountains. 15. Describe the Rimutaka range. 16. At what points do spurs from the Tararua reach the coast? 17. Describe the Kaimanawha range. 18. Describe the ranges on the south-east coast. 19. Mention the principal plains in the north of the island. 20. Name those in the interior. 21. Name those in the east. 22. Name those in the west.



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SECTION V.

MOUNTAINS AND PLAINS OF THE SOUTH ISLAND.

The *main range* appears again in the South Island, and extends through its whole length, keeping, however, much nearer to its western than to its eastern coast.

Towards the north of the island the principal ranges diverge like the legs of a compass, forming an eastern branch, which terminates at the promontory of Jackson Head, and a western branch called the *Tasman Mountains*, terminating at Cape Farewell. Each of these main branches also sends out spurs or offsets, which strike the coast at Separation and Rock Points on the west, and at the numerous headlands dividing the sounds and inlets which intersect the country lying between Blind Bay and Cloudy Bay, on the east.

Above the fork, whence the two principal chains diverge, stands the lofty *Peak* of *Mount Franklin*, 10,000 feet in height, clothed in dazzling snow, and surmounting, like a watch-tower, all the northern region of the island. In the western branch are the noticeable peaks of *Mount Arthur*, *Mount Snowden*, and *Mount Peel*, the latter being 6000 feet in height; and in the eastern branch are *Ben Nevis*, *Mount Rintoul*, and *Mount Richmond*.

On the west of Mount Franklin is a detached chain, parallel with and near the coast, called the *Paparoa Mountains*, between the Buller and Grey Rivers, whilst on the eastern side of the same mountain are three lateral and nearly parallel branches, starting from the main range and directed towards the north-east. One of these branches reaches the coast at the White Bluff, a second near Cape Campbell, and the third at Lookers-on Point. The range which approaches Cape Campbell is called the *Kaikoura*.

and attains an elevation of 9700 feet in *Mount Tapuae-nuka*, or *Odin*. The most southern branch is generally known as the *Seaward Kaikoura* range, though named by Captain Cook the *Lookers-on*, from a number of natives whom he observed watching his ships. Its highest peak is *Mount Kaitarau*, 8700 feet above the sea level.

From Mount Franklin the main range continues towards the south, under the general designation of the *Southern Alps*, for upwards of 200 miles, forming a well-defined mountain chain which culminates towards the centre in the massive peak, the highest elevation in the islands, well named, in honour of the British Discoverer of New Zealand, *Mount Cook*. It is 13,200 feet in height, being no mean rival to Mount Blanc, the monarch of the European Alps, which is 15,730 feet.

The higher portions of this region are covered with perpetual snow (the elevation of the snow line being about 7500 feet), and, like the Alpine regions of Europe, contain valleys filled with glaciers or masses of sliding ice, derived from the snow-fields, which form the source and feeders of most of the rivers which flow through the central districts of the islands.

The *Plains* of the South Island lie principally along the valleys of the great rivers, and, for the most part, assume their names; such are the *Waimea*, *Wairau*, *Awatere*, *Hurunui*, and *Waiatu-ua Plains*, together with the *Maruia* and *Karamea Plains* in the north. The *Canterbury Plains*, on the eastern side of the island, extend for nearly 100 miles between Banks Peninsula and the Southern Alps, whilst wooded plains of a similar character also extend along the western side of the mountains, in which gold is obtained in large quantities.

The upper and lower *Taiari*, the *Manuherikia* and *Clutha Plains*, with the *Oamaru*, *Moeraki*, and *Southland Downs* (resembling in their character the downs of England), constitute the principal plains in the south of the island.

•

Stewart Island is also mountainous. Its highest peak, *Mount Anglem*, is 3200 feet high. There is a plain of some extent nearly the centre of the island.

QUESTIONS FOR EXAMINATION.

1. Describe the main range in the South Island. 2. Describe the branch chains at its northern extremity. 3. Where does the eastern branch end? 4. What is the name of the western branch? 5. Where does it terminate? 6. Where do the spurs terminate on the west? 7. Where upon the east? 8. Describe Mount Franklin. 9. Name the principal peaks in the western branch. 10. Name those in the eastern branch. 11. Describe the Paparoa chain. 12. Name the points at or near which the three parallel lateral chains strike the east coast. 13. What is the name of the loftiest of these chains? 14. Give the name and elevation of its highest peak. 15. Name the most southerly of these chains and its highest peak. 16. Describe the Southern Alps. 17. Describe Mount Cook. 18. Give the elevation of the snow-line in this part of New Zealand. 19. Describe the glaciers. 20. Name the principal plains in the north of the South Island. 21. Name those on the east. 22. Name those on the west. 23. Name those on the south. 24. Describe Stewart Island.

SECTION VI.

RIVERS OF THE NORTH ISLAND.

Whilst the mountains of New Zealand vie in grandeur, number, and magnitude with those of other regions of the globe renowned for magnificent or picturesque mountain scenery, its *rivers*, owing to the narrow breadth of the islands and the direction of the principal mountain ranges, are comparatively small, though usually rapid in their course.

In the North Island the largest river lies to the north-west of the Ruahine Mountains, where the country is less intersected by mountain-chains than in any other part. The *Waikato*, which is by far the largest river in the North Island, rises on the northern slopes of Mount Ruapehu, and after helping to form the great Taupo Lake in the

centre of the island, flows northwards for the greater part of its course for a distance of 100 miles, when, passing through a gorge in the hills along the coast, it turns sharply to the west, forming a rectangular bend, and makes its way to the west coast. This river is navigable by small steamers for 50 miles, and its estuary can be entered by full-sized vessels. It empties itself into the North Taranaki Bight.

The *Waipa* is an important tributary to the Waikato, which river it joins on its left bank after a course of 40 miles, about 20 miles above the rectangular bend already mentioned of the principal stream.

The *Waiho* or *Thames*, and the *Waitoa*, with its tributary the *Piako*, are two rivers which rise on the high table-land between the Waikato River and the Bay of Plenty, and flow in parallel courses towards the north, emptying themselves into the Frith of Thames at the bottom of the Hauraki Gulf. These rivers are only navigable by small vessels.

The *Whanganui* rises near the centre of the island on the slopes of Mount Tongariro, and flows first in a northerly and afterwards in a south-westerly direction, falling into the South Taranaki Bight near the 40th parallel of latitude. It is navigable at its mouth by vessels of medium size, and by canoes almost to its source.

The *Whangaehu*, the *Turakina*, and the *Rangitikei*, are smaller rivers flowing nearly parallel with the Whanganui, but farther towards the south.

The *Manawatu* rises much farther towards the south, and on the east of the Ruahine range, through which it passes by the Manawatu gorge, whence it flows, nearly due west, into the South Taranaki Bight.

The *Rangitaika* rises from the plains on the east side of Lake Taupo, and flows north-east into the Bay of Plenty. The *Wairoa* in the north, and another river of the same name in the east, flowing into Hawke Bay, with the *Ruamahanga* in the south, are other considerable streams in this island.

The latter rises on the southern slopes of the Puketoi Mountains, and flows southward in the valley formed between the Tararua range and the east coast chains of mountains, called the Wairarapa Valley. Towards the termination of its course it forms the Wairarapa and Onoke Lakes, from the latter of which its waters escape into Palliser Bay.

QUESTIONS FOR EXAMINATION.

1. What is the general character of the New Zealand rivers?
2. Where is the largest river in the North Island situated?
3. Mention its name and describe its course.
4. To what extent is it navigable?
5. What is the Waipa?
6. Describe its course.
7. Describe the courses of the Waiho and Waitoa.
8. What is the Piako?
9. To what extent are these rivers navigable?
10. Where does the Whanganui rise?
11. Describe its course.
12. To what extent is it navigable?
13. What are the Whangaihu, Turakina, and Rangitikei?
14. Where does the Manawatu rise?
15. Describe its course.
16. Describe the course of the Rangitaika.
17. Name some other considerable streams in the North Island.
18. Where does the Ruamahanga rise.
19. Describe its course.
20. What lakes are formed by it?

SECTION VII.

RIVERS OF THE SOUTH ISLAND.

The *rivers* of the South Island may be geographically divided into *three groups*; the first group comprehending those rivers which have their sources in the elevated mass of the central chain, near Mount Franklin; the second group consisting of those which are fed by the glaciers which descend from the lofty Alpine region near Mount Cook; and the third, which includes nearly all the southern rivers, consisting of streams connected with the many large and elevated lakes which stud the southern and south-eastern slopes of the Southern Alps.

In the *first* or northern group, are the *Motueka* flowing north, the *Buller* and the *Grey* flowing west, and the *Wairau*, the *Waiau-toa* or *Clarence*, and the *Waiau-ua* or

Dillon, flowing east. The Motueka empties itself into Tasman Bay, and the Wairau discharges into Cloudy Bay. Between the Wairau and the Clarence is a smaller stream, the *Awatere*, flowing parallel with them both, rising in the Fairfield Down, and separated from the Clarence by the Kaikoura Mountains. All of these rivers rise in the neighbourhood of Mount Franklin, and none of them, except the Buller and Grey, are navigable to any considerable extent. In the valleys of these two rivers there are extensive gold-fields and coal mines, which support a large population.

The principal rivers of the *second* or central group are the *Waimakariri*, emptying itself into Pegasus Bay on the east coast, a little to the north of Banks Peninsula; the *Rakaia*, *Ashburton*, and *Rangitata*, flowing by parallel courses into the Canterbury Bight; and the *Teremakau*, *Hokitika*, *Waiau*, *Haast*, *Arawata*, and *Kotuku*, flowing into the Westland Bight. All of these rivers rise among the glaciers of the Southern Alps, and none of them are navigable by vessels of any size, being generally of the usual character of mountain streams, often swollen into rapid torrents, but at other times expanded over broad shingly beds.

The *third* or southern group contains the comparatively large river, the *Waitaki*, the sources of which flow through the lakes Tekapo, Pukaki, and Ohau; and the *Clutha*, which is the largest river in the South Island, and which rises from several sources, flowing through the lakes Wakatipu, Wanaka, and Hawea, and falls into the sea in Molyneux Bay. These rivers rise almost on the western shores of the island, and flow nearly across its entire breadth, to the eastern coast. The course of the Clutha is about 150 miles, and the volume of water flowing into the Ocean through its channel has been estimated at a million and a half cubic feet per minute. Its water power, *together with that of many neighbouring streams, is extensively used for supplying the sluices used in working*

the valuable gold-fields which abound throughout their valleys.

The *Mataura*, rising near Lake Wakatipu, but not now connected with it, is an exception to this class of rivers. It flows into Toetoe Bay in the Foveaux Strait.

The *Waiau*, flowing through the lakes Te Anau and Manipori into Tewaewae Bay, is, however, another river of the group, none of which, except the Clutha, are navigable.

The principal river in Stewart Island is *Lords River*, which is navigable for a few miles only.

QUESTIONS FOR EXAMINATION.

1. How may the rivers of the South Island be distributed? 2. What kind of rivers constitutes the first group? 3. Of what kind does the second group consist? 4. What kind of rivers forms the third group? 5. Name the principal rivers of the northern group. 6. Where do the Motueka and Wairau discharge themselves? 7. Describe the Awatere. 8. Whence do all these rivers derive their sources? 9. To what extent are they navigable? 10. What minerals are found in the valleys of the Buller and the Grey? 11. Name the principal rivers of the central group. 12. Where does the Waimakariri empty itself? 13. What rivers flow into the Canterbury Bight? 14. What rivers flow into the Westland Bight? 15. From what sources are all these rivers derived? 16. To what extent are they navigable? 17. What is their general character? 18. Name the principal rivers of the southern group. 19. Through what lakes do the sources of the Waitaki flow? 20. Through what lakes do the sources of the Clutha flow? 21. Describe the course of that river. 22. To what purpose is the water power of the Clutha extensively applied? 23. Describe the Mataura. 24. Describe the Waiau. 25. What is the chief river in Stewart Island?

SECTION VIII.

LAKES.

The *Lakes* of New Zealand are numerous, and some of them are of considerable extent.

The largest lake in the North Island is Taupo, situated near the centre of the island, and containing an area of

about 200 square miles ; being nearly equal in size to the Lake of Geneva, in Switzerland. This lake is fed by the river Waikato, which rises a little to the south of the lake, and flows through it in a northerly direction. In the vicinity of Lake Taupo are numerous hot springs, many of which are of an extremely high temperature, and some actually boiling.

Between this lake and the north-east coast, but to the west of the Ruahine and Kai Manawha ranges, is a belt of country about 30 miles in width, which may be properly described as the *northern lake country* of New Zealand.

This region constitutes one of the physical wonders of the world, being occupied by a succession of hot lakes, mud volcanoes, and springs, throwing up jets of boiling water which can only be compared, for their size, number, and remarkable phenomena, to the long celebrated Geysers of Iceland.

Among the numerous lakes which occur in this district the most considerable are *Tarawera*, *Rotorua*, and *Rotoiti*, of which *Tarawera* has an area larger than that of *Windermere* in England.

At the southern extremity of the island, a short distance only from the southern shore, are the *Wairarapa* and *Onoke* lakes. They are both fed by the river *Ruamahanga*, and the area of the *Wairarapa* Lake is 16 square miles. This lake is a very little above the sea-level, whilst *Lake Taupo* is elevated 1250 feet above it.

In the South Island there are a number of large lakes, which are remarkable for their elevation and depth, as well as for the great height of the mountains which surround them.

The greater number of these are situated to the south of Mount Cook, amidst the ranges which form the steep southern slopes of the Southern Alps. The largest are *Lakes Wakatipu*, *Wanaka*, *Hawea*, *Anau*, *Manipori*, *Tekapo*, *Pukaki*, and *Ohau*. The area of *Lake Wakatipu*

is about 114 square miles, and its elevation upwards of 800 feet above the sea level.

There are also several lakes to the north of Mount Cook, of inferior size to those already mentioned. Of these the most remarkable for size or position are Lakes *Rotoroa*, *Rotoiti*, and *Tennyson*, near Mount Franklin; *Lake Sumner* on the north-eastern, and *Lake Brunner* on the north-western, slopes of the Southern Alps; and *Lake Ellesmere*, an extensive sheet of fresh water, on the eastern coast, south of Banks Peninsula, and only separated from the sea by a long and narrow strip of shingly beach, through which its waters occasionally burst.

Besides these fresh-water lakes, there are several inlets of the sea so nearly enclosed by land as to form salt-water lakes or lochs. Such in the North Island are the *Hokianga Harbour*, and the *Kaipara*, *Manukau*, and *Kawhia* harbours on the west; the *Waitemata* or Auckland Harbour on the east; and *Port Nicholson* or Wellington Harbour on the south. And, in the South Island, are *Pelorus* and *Queen Charlotte Sounds* on the north; whilst the numerous sounds on the south-west coast of that island may also be included in this class, of which the best known are *Dusky Bay* and *Milford Sound*. So also may be *Paterson Inlet* and *Port Pegasus*, in Stewart Island.

QUESTIONS FOR EXAMINATION.

1. Are there many large lakes in New Zealand? 2. Where is Lake Taupo? 3. Describe it. 4. By what river is it fed. 5. What remarkable phenomena are in its neighbourhood? 6. Where is the northern lake country? 7. Describe it. 8. Name the most considerable of its lakes. 9. What is the size of Lake Tarawera? 10. Where are the Wairarapa and Onoke lakes? 11. How are they supplied? 12. How large is the Wairarapa? 13. Describe the lakes of the South Island? 14. Where are they mostly situated? 15. Name the largest. 16. What is the size and elevation of Lake Wakatipu? 17. What lakes exist to the north of Mount Cook? 18. Describe Lake Ellesmere. 19. What other class of lakes is there? 20. Name the lochs of the North Island. 21. Name those of the South Island. 22. Name those of Stewart Island.

SECTION IX.

GENERAL GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES.

New Zealand furnishes to the student of geography examples illustrative of almost every *term* used to distinguish the various forms both of land and water. This will be seen by the following classification.

OCEAN.—The coasts of New Zealand are washed by the waters of the South Pacific Ocean.

SEA.—Though not so named, the wide expanse between the islands which is terminated by Cook Strait, is really a sea.

GULF.—The Hauraki Gulf.

BAY.—Bay of Plenty, Hawke Bay, Palliser Bay, North and South Taranaki Bights, Golden Bay, Tasman Bay, Cloudy Bay, Pegasus Bay, Canterbury Bight, Molyneux Bay, Tewaewae Bay, Westland Bight, Karamea Bay.

HARBOUR.—Bay of Islands, Waitemata or Auckland Harbour, Napier Harbour, Wellington Harbour, Hokianga Harbour, Kaipara Harbour, Manukau Harbour, Kawhia Harbour, Nelson Haven, Picton Harbour, Port Lyttelton, Dunedin Harbour, Bluff Harbour, Invercargill Harbour, Port Pegasus, and Paterson Inlet.

CREEK, INLET, OR SOUND.—Queen Charlotte and Pelorus Sounds, Chalky Bay, Dusky Bay, and Milford Sound.

ROADSTEAD.—Ahuriri and Astrolabe Roads.

STRAIT OR CHANNEL.—Cook Strait, Foveaux Strait, Tamaki Strait, Coromandel Channel, French Pass, Tory Channel.

LAKE.—Taupo, Tarawera, Rotorua, Rotoiti, Wairarapa, Onoke, Wakatipu, Wanaka, Hawea, Anau, Manipori, *Tekapo*, *Pukaki*, Ohau, Rotoroa, Tennyson, Sumner, *Brunner*, *Ellesmere*.

LOCH.—Hokianga, Kaipara, Manukau, Kawhia, Waitemata, and Wellington Harbours, Pelorus and Queen Charlotte Sounds, and many inlets on the south-west coast, with Paterson Inlet and Port Pegasus.

FRITH OR ESTUARY.—Frith of Thames, Estuary of Waikato.

RIVER.—Waikato, Waipa, Waiho or Thames, Waitoa, Whanganui, Whangaehu, Turakina, Rangitikei, Manawatu, Rangitaika, Wairoa, and Ruamahanga, in the North Island. Clutha, Waiau, Mataura, Waitaki, Rangitata, Ashburton, Rakaia, Waimakariri, Teremakau, Hokitika, Wairau, Haast, Arawata, Kotuku, Grey, Buller, Motueka, Wairau, Waiau-toa or Clarence, Waiau-ua or Dillon, and Awatere, in the South Island.

ARCHIPELAGO.—Bay of Islands, and Hauraki Gulf.

CONTINENT.—This term cannot be properly applied to any part of New Zealand, but it is well illustrated by Australia.

ISLAND.—North and South, Stewart, Chatham, Auckland, Campbell, Bounty, Antipodes, Three Kings, Great and Little Barrier, Kawau, Rangitoto, Motutapu, Waiheke, Mercury, White or Whakaari, Kapiti, D'Urville, Arapawa, Secretary, Resolution, Ruapuke islands, and the Snares.

PENINSULA.—Auckland, Coromandel, Mahia, Banks, and Otago peninsulas.

ISTHMUS.—Auckland isthmus.

DELTA.—Wairau delta.

PROMONTORY.—Pelorus and Farewell promontories.

CAPE, POINT, AND HEADLAND.—Maria Van Diemen, North, Brett, Colville, East, Table, Palliser, Terawhiti, and Egmont capes; Kidnapper and Reef points, and Taourakira Head, in the North Island. Francis and East heads; Jackson, Campbell, Saunders, West, Foul-wind, and Farewell capes; Nugget, Windsor, Cascade, and Rock points, and the Bluff.

in the South Island ;—with South Cape in Stewart Island, and Cape Stephen in D'Urville Island.

MOUNTAIN CHAIN.—Ruahine, Tararua, Rimutaka, Kaimanawha, Puketoi, Maungaraki, Haurangi, in the North Island. Southern Alps, Spencer, Tasman, Paparoa, Kaikoura, Lookers-on.

MOUNTAIN PEAK.—Edgecumbe, Hikurangi, Karehoe, Egmont or Taranaki, Tongariro, Ruapehu, Franklin, Arthur, Snowdon, Ben Nevis, Rintoul, Richmond, Tapuaenuka, Kaitarau, Cook, Aspiring, and Earnslaw, with Mount Anglem in Stewart Island.

PLAIN OR LOWLAND.—Kirikiri Plains, Thames, and Waikato Valleys, Rua Taniwha and Wairarapa Plains, in the North Island ; Waimea, Wairau, Awatere, Hurunui, Waiau, Maruia, Karamea, Canterbury, Taieri, Manuherikia, and Clutha Plains, in the South Island.

PLATEAU, TABLE-LAND, OR HIGHLAND.—Kaingaroa and Taupo Plains, Timaru, Oamaru, Moeraki and Southland downs.

VALLEY.—Waikato, Thames, Rangitikei, Wairarapa, Wairau, Amuri, Waitaki, Clutha, Grey, Buller.

VOLCANO.—Tongariro, Whakaari.

GLACIER.—Godley Glacier, and others in the Southern Alps.

GEYSER.—In the northern lake district.

DESERT AND OASIS.—None in New Zealand.

QUESTIONS FOR EXAMINATION.

1. What examples does New Zealand furnish? 2. Mention an ocean washing New Zealand. 3. A sea. 4. A gulf. 5. Name the bays. 6. The harbours. 7. The creeks, inlets, and sounds. 8. The roadsteads. 9. The straits and channels. 10. The lakes. 11. The lochs. 12. The friths and estuaries. 13. The rivers in the North Island. 14. The rivers in the South Island. 15. The Archipelagoes. 16. A continent, if any. 17. The islands. 18. The peninsulas. 19. An isthmus. 20. A delta. 21. The promontories. 22. The capes, points, and headlands in the North Island. 23. The same in the South Island. 24. The mountain chains in the North

Island. 25. The same in the South. 26. The mountain peaks in the North Island. 27. The same in the South. 28. The plains or lowlands. 29. The plateaus, table-lands, or highlands. 30. The valleys. 31. The volcanoes. 32. The glaciers. 33. The geysers. 34. The deserts and oases, if any.

SECTION X.

POLITICAL HISTORY.

The settlement of New Zealand as a *British Colony* was mainly brought about by an English association, incorporated by charter from the British Crown, and styled the *New Zealand Company*. In the years 1840, 1841, it established the settlements of Wellington, Nelson, and New Plymouth: Wellington, on the shores of Port Nicholson, at the southern extremity of the North Island; New Plymouth, upon its western coast, near Mount Egmont or Taranaki; and Nelson, at the bottom of Blind Bay, now called Tasman Bay, on the north shore of the South Island.

The British Government about the same time appointed CAPTAIN HOBSON, R.N., as "Consul to and eventual *Lieutenant-Governor* of the Colony of New Zealand," which was then described as "lying between the 34th degree 30 minutes north to the 47th degree 10 minutes south latitude, and the 166th degree 5 minutes to the 179th degree of east longitude, reckoning from the meridian of Greenwich."

By the treaty of *Waitangi* (a native settlement in the Bay of Islands), entered into by CAPTAIN HOBSON on behalf of the British Crown with the native chiefs, all sovereign rights were surrendered by the latter, and the supremacy of Great Britain formally proclaimed; after which CAPTAIN HOBSON entered upon his duties as *Lieutenant-Governor* under the Governor of New South Wales, and selected a site for the capital of the Colony upon the

isthmus named from the *City of Auckland*, to which he gave that name.

The Colony continued as a dependency of New South Wales for about a year, but subsequently was erected into a separate colony, under an independent Governor; and in 1842 letters-patent were issued from the Crown, extending the boundaries of the Colony so as to include all lands "lying between 33 and 53 degrees of south latitude and between 162 degrees of east longitude, reckoning from the meridian of Greenwich, and 173 degrees of west longitude, reckoning from the same meridian," which extension has been since confirmed by Act of Parliament in 1863.

Governor Hobson died at Auckland in 1842, and was succeeded by CAPTAIN FITZROY, R.N., subsequently Rear-Admiral and Director of the Meteorological Department of the Board of Trade, who was recalled in 1845, when CAPTAIN GREY (now Sir George Grey), Governor of South Australia, was appointed in his place.

In 1846, the Queen, under authority of an Act of Parliament, granted a *Charter* conferring representative institutions upon New Zealand, which was for that purpose divided into two provinces—each to have a Lieutenant-Governor, a House of Representatives, and a Legislative Council, and the whole colony to have a Governor-in-Chief and a House of Representatives. This Charter was, however, suspended by Act of Parliament for five years, and no change took place in the government of the Colony before 1852, beyond the appointment of Lieutenant-Governor Eyre (afterwards Governor of Jamaica) as Lieutenant-Governor of the Cook Strait Settlements, which office he held until 1852.

In 1847, an association of the Scotch Free Kirk, in connection with the New Zealand Company, founded the settlement of *Otago* in the south-east of the South Island; and in 1848 the *Canterbury Settlement* was in like manner founded by the Canterbury Church of England Association, in the central division of that island.

In 1850, the New Zealand Company, being unable to carry out its designs for the colonisation of the country, surrendered its Charter to the British Crown.

The form of government established in the Colony previous to 1852 consisted of a Governor and Commander-in-Chief, with an Executive Council formed by three public officers appointed by the Governor, and a Legislative Council, comprising the same three officers and the three senior Justices of the Peace. The "*New Zealand Constitution Act*," passed by the British Parliament in 1852, conferred upon the Colony the privileges of Representative Government under a Governor-in-Chief; and provided for the establishment of a *General Assembly*, to consist of two Houses of Parliament—an Upper House, called the Legislative Council, consisting of members appointed by the Governor for life; and a Lower House, called the House of Representatives, consisting of members elected by the people for a term of five years. This Act also constituted the *Provinces of Auckland, New Plymouth* (now Taranaki), *Wellington, Nelson, Canterbury, and Otago*, and provided for the establishment of a *Provincial Government* in each, to consist of a Superintendent and Provincial Council, both elected for four years.

In the year 1858, an Act was passed by the General Assembly of New Zealand, changing the name of the province of New Plymouth to that of Taranaki, as well as an Act providing for the creation of new provinces in New Zealand, which led to the immediate separation of *Hawke's Bay Province* from that of Wellington, of which it previously formed a part; and in 1859 the *Province of Marlborough* was in like manner separated from that of Nelson, of which it had constituted the north-eastern portion. In 1861, also, the *Province of Southland* was constituted at the south of the South Island, being taken out of the Province of Otago. In 1863, an Act was passed by which Stewart Island was annexed to the Province of Southland; and in 1867, another Act by which the western portion of

the Canterbury Province was formed into the *County of Westland*, with a separate local government. In 1870, the Province of Southland was re-incorporated with that of Otago.

The seat of government remained at Auckland, where it was established by Governor Hobson, until 1864, when it was removed by the colonial legislature to the City of Wellington, which is now the *Capital* of the Colony.

Sir George Grey, after having governed the Colony for eight years, was transferred in 1854 to the Governorship of Cape Colony, and was succeeded in New Zealand by *Colonel Gore Browne*, previously Governor of St Helena. In 1861, however, Governor Browne being appointed to the government of Tasmania, *Sir George Grey* again became Governor of New Zealand, but was succeeded in 1868 by *Sir George Ferguson Bowen*, who was previously Governor of Queensland in Australia.

QUESTIONS FOR EXAMINATION.

1. How was the colonisation of New Zealand commenced?
 2. What settlements were established in 1840 and 1841?
 3. Where were they situated?
 4. What further took place about the same time?
 5. What change occurred in 1840?
 6. When were the territories of the Colony extended, and how far?
 7. Who succeeded Governor Hobson?
 8. Who was appointed in 1845?
 9. What settlement was established in 1847?
 10. What settlement in 1848?
 11. What occurred in 1850?
 12. What was the form of Government previous to 1852?
 13. What occurred in 1852?
 14. What were the principal provisions of the New Zealand Constitution Act?
 15. What Acts were passed in 1858?
 16. When was Hawke's Bay Province created?
 17. When was Marlborough?
 18. When was Southland?
 19. When was Stewart Island annexed to the Province of Southland?
 20. When was the County of Westland formed?
 21. When was the seat of government removed to Wellington?
 22. What change in the government of the Colony took place in 1854?
 23. What in 1861?
 24. What in 1868?
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SECTION XL.

POLITICAL DIVISIONS AND TOWNS, WITH
STATISTICS.*

The Colony of New Zealand extends from the 33d to the 53d degree of south latitude, and from the 162d degree of east to the 173d degree of west longitude, and comprises twelve principal divisions.

1st. *The Province of Auckland*, occupying the northern portion of the North Island. *Area*—about 17,000,000 acres. *Population*—British, 62,335; Native, about 24,000. *Principal towns*—City of Auckland, 12,937; Parnell, 3563; Newton, 3957; Onehunga, 1913; Shortland, 3538; Grahamstown, 2254.

2d. *The Province of Wellington*, occupying most of the southern portion of the North Island. *Area*—about 7,000,000 acres. *Population*—British, 24,001; Native, about 4000. *Principal towns*—City of Wellington, 7908; Whanganui, 2390.

3d. *The Province of Hawke's Bay*, on the east side of the North Island. *Area*—about 3,000,000 acres. *Population*—British, 6059; Native, about 3000. *Principal town*—Napier, 2179.

4th. *The Province of Taranaki*, on the west side of the North Island. *Area*—about 2,500,000 acres. *Population*—British, 4480; Native, about 3000. *Principal town*—New Plymouth, 1837.

5th. *The Province of Nelson*, occupying the north-west portion of the South Island. *Area*—about 7,000,000 acres. *Population*—British, 22,501. *Principal towns*—City of Nelson, 5534; Westport, 878; Cobden, 717; Charleston, 1354; Brighton, 334.

6th. *The Province of Marlborough*, on the north-east of

* *Note.* The statistics given in this section are derived from the Census returns, 1870.

the South Island. *Area*—about 2,500,000 acres. *Population*—British, 5235. *Principal towns*—Blenheim, 741; Picton, 636.

7th. *The Province of Canterbury*, occupying the eastern portion of the central division of the South Island. *Area*—about 8,500,000 acres. *Population*—British, 46,801. *Principal towns*—City of Christchurch, 7931; Lyttelton, 2551; Kaiapoi, 868; Timaru, 1418; Akaroa, 321.

8th. *The County of Westland*, occupying the western portion of the central division of the South Island. *Area*—about 3,000,000 acres. *Population*—British, 15,357. *Principal towns*—Hokitika, 3572; Greymouth, 2181.

9th. *The Province of Otago* (exclusive of the District of Southland), occupying most of the southern portion of the South Island. *Area*—about 14,000,000 acres. *Population*—British, 60,722. *Principal towns*—City of Dunedin, 14,857; Port Chalmers, 1406; Oamaru, 1657.

10th. *The District of Southland* (now re-incorporated with Otago), occupying the remaining portion of the southern division of the South Island, together with Stewart Island. *Area*—about 3,000,000 acres. *Population*—British, 8769. *Principal town*—Invercargill, 1960.

11th. *The Chatham Islands*. *Area*—about 300,000 acres. *Population*—British, 133; Native, about 450.

12th. *The Uninhabited Islands*—Auckland Isles, Campbell Island, Bounty and Antipodes Islets. *Area*—about 300,000 acres.

The area of the entire Colony of New Zealand is about 100,000 square miles, and its entire *British Population* (as returned by the census of 1870), 256,393. The *Native Population* is estimated at about 35,000. The imports for the year 1870 amounted to the value of £4,639,015, the exports to £4,822,756, and the revenue of the Colony to £1,384,639.

QUESTIONS FOR EXAMINATION.

1. State the extent of the New Zealand Colony. 2. How many principal divisions does it comprise? 3. Where is the Auckland Province? 4. State its area and population. 5. Name its principal towns. 6. Where is the Province of Wellington? 7. State its area and population. 8. Name its principal towns. 9. Where is Hawke's Bay Province? 10. Give its area, population, and chief town. 11. Where is the Taranaki Province? 12. Give its area, population, and chief town. 13. Where is the Nelson Province? 14. State its area and population? 15. Name its principal towns. 16. Where is the Marlborough Province? 17. Give its area, population, and chief town. 18. Where is the Canterbury Province? 19. State its area and population. 20. Name its principal towns. 21. Where is the County of Westland? 22. Give its area, population, and principal towns. 23. Where is the Otago Province? 24. State its area and population. 25. Name its principal towns. 26. Where is Southland? 27. Give its area, population, and chief town. 28. Give the area and population of the Chatham Islands. 29. Give the names and area of the Uninhabited Islands. 30. What is the land area of the whole Colony? 31. What the British population? 32. What the Native population? 33. What is the annual value of the exports? 34. What of the imports? 35. What the revenue?

SECTION XII.

AUSTRALASIA.

New Zealand forms a part of that extensive and important division of the world's surface situated in the South Pacific Ocean, and called *Australasia*, which consists of the large island or continent of *Australia*, with the island of *Tasmania* immediately to the south, and a belt of islands and island groups encircling it on its northern and eastern sides.

The most northerly island of this belt, which is included within the Australian division, is the large island called *Papua*, or *New Guinea*, and the most southerly portion is the *New Zealand group*.

The other most considerable islands and groups commencing with *Papua*, are the *Admiralty Islands*, *New Britain*, *New Ireland*, the *Salomon Islands*, the *Louisade*

Archipelago, the *Santa Cruz* group, the *New Hebrides*, the *Loyalty Islands*, and *New Caledonia*.

Of these islands Australia, Tasmania, New Zealand, and the small Norfolk Island, which lies between New Zealand and New Caledonia, and is attached to the government of New South Wales, form portions of the British Empire, whilst New Caledonia belongs to the French. The remaining islands are still in the possession of native tribes, some of whom are Malay, but the greater part are negro races.

Australia is a very large and important country, not much inferior in size to Europe. It possesses a healthy climate, fertile soil, and valuable minerals.

As the northern extremity of Australia stretches to within eleven degrees of the equator, its climate and temperature are very various in different parts of its continent. The temperature in the north is tropical, and that in the southern parts, where most of the British colonies are situated, is similar to that of the southern countries of Europe. It suffers, however, occasionally from a dry, hot wind (the Australian sirocco), blowing from the interior during the extreme heats of summer.

It comprises five British Colonies—*New South Wales*, the oldest settlement, occupying the central portion of its eastern division; above this, *Queensland*, extending to the northern coast, and containing extensive tracts of fertile land, adapted for the cultivation of tobacco, cotton, and the sugar cane; and below it, *Victoria*, the El Dorado of the east, with the smallest extent of territory, but the largest population, of any of the Australian colonies. *South Australia* occupies the southern portion of the central division, the northern part of which division, named *Alexandra Land*, or *North Australia*, is still uncolonised, though several attempts at settlement have been made, and a site for a town, called *Palmerston*, selected on the northern coast.

The remaining portion of the country is called Western

Australia, and though possessing a territory equal to one-third of the whole island, contains at present a very limited population.

The greater portion of the interior of Australia remains still unexplored, and is sparsely inhabited by a black race known as the Australian negroes.

The principal cities and towns are—in *New South Wales*, Sydney, Paramatta, Liverpool, Campbelltown, Goulburn, Newcastle, and Maitland, near the coast, with Windsor and Bathurst in the interior; in *Victoria*—Melbourne, Williamstown, Belfast, Alberton, Geelong, and Portland on the coast, with Ballarat and Castlemaine in the interior; in *Queensland*—Brisbane, Ipswich, and Maryborough; in *South Australia*—Adelaide, Port Adelaide, Glenelg, Macclesfield, Kooringa, Gawler, Hansdorf, Port Lincoln, and Kingscote; and in *Western Australia*—Perth, Freemantle, Guildford, York, and Albany.

Tasmania is a large island, immediately to the south of Australia, and separated from it by Bass Strait. It is nearly as large as the North Island of New Zealand, and contains a flourishing British Colony. Its chief towns are Hobart Town, Launceston, George Town, Port Arthur, Campbell Town, Oatlands, Green Pond, and Richmond.

Papua, or *New Guinea*, is one of the largest islands in the world after Australia. It has a tropical climate, and very fertile soil, but its inhabitants are uncivilised and barbarous. They belong mostly to the Papuan race, which also inhabits the other islands of the belt, with the exception of New Zealand, and who, from their resemblance to the black tribes of interior Africa, are called Negroes, but are more savage and less intelligent than the African Negroes.

New Caledonia is a large island, 200 miles long and 26 miles in breadth, and is traversed throughout its length by a mountain range. It belongs to the French, who have established a settlement upon its coasts. Its towns are Port de France and Napoleon.

QUESTIONS FOR EXAMINATION.

1. Of what large division does New Zealand form a part? 2. What does that division consist of? 3. Name the extreme northern and southern islands of the belt. 4. Name the other considerable islands and groups. 5. Which of the Australian islands belong to the British Empire? 6. To whom does New Caledonia belong? 7. Who possess the other islands? 8. Describe Australia. 9. Describe its climate and temperature. 10. From what wind does it peculiarly suffer? 11. How many British Colonies does it contain? 12. Describe the position of each. 13. What is known of the interior? 14. Name the principal towns of New South Wales? 15. Name those of Victoria. 16. Name those of Queensland. 17. Name those of South Australia. 18. Name those of Western Australia. 19. Describe Tasmania. 20. Name its chief towns. 21. Describe Papua. 22. By what race is it inhabited? 23. Describe New Caledonia. 24. Name its towns.

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